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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,194	07/10/2001	Mitsuhiro Fukatsu	1232-4736	8300
27123	7590	05/20/2004		
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 345 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10154			EXAMINER CABRERA, ZOILA E	
			ART UNIT 2125	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/902,194		FUKATSU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Zoila E. Cabrera		2125	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-20, 22, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Embutsu et al. (US 5,699,525)**.

**Embutsu** discloses an environmental information system, method and computer readable medium comprising:

Regarding claims 1, 18 and 22,

- a product constitution information storage section for storing product constitution information including information on parts and/or raw materials constituting each of products (Fig. 6, elements 37 or 39); an environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about each product, the parts and/or the raw materials (Col. 6, lines 9-12, i.e., data is stored in correspondence to location information or geographic information); and integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information with

respect to each product on the basis of the product constitution information and the environmental information (Col. 7, lines 41-52; Fig. 6, elements 70, 37, 39; Fig. 8, i.e., steel, aluminum, glass, plastics, chloro-fluorocarbon).

As for claims 3 and 6,

- user information storage means for storing user information, wherein said integrated environmental information forming means forms integrated environmental information on the basis of the user information (Col. 3, lines 10-14; Col. 6, lines 24-29).

As for claims 4, 19 and 23

- a product constitution information storage section for storing product constitution information including information on raw materials constituting each of products (Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 20-23, i.e., the model f can be created from the knowledge of the component parts of each home electrical appliance and the materials of the parts); a raw material environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about the raw materials (Col. 6, lines 9-12, i.e., data is stored in correspondence to location information or geographic information); and integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information with respect to each product on the basis of the product constitution information and the environmental information about the raw materials (Col. 7, lines 41-52; Fig. 6, elements 70, 37, 39; Fig. 8, i.e., steel, aluminum, glass, plastics, chloro-fluorocarbon).

As for claims 5 and 15,

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- the environmental information about the raw materials includes information about whether or not a chemical substance to be environmentally prohibited, **reduced** or controlled is contained (Fig. 8, steel, aluminum, glass, etc.).

As for claim 7,

- a product environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about the products (Fig. 6, element 37 or 39), wherein said integrated environmental information forming section forms integrated environmental information with respect to each product on the basis of the environmental information about the raw materials and the product environmental information about the products (Fig. 6, geographic location A1-A3, Refrigerators, TV and Type; Col. 6, lines 9-12; Col. 7, lines 20-23; Col. 9, lines 12-18).

As for claims 8 and 16,

- the product environmental information includes at least one of power consumption, the amount of a metal consumed, the disassembly time, and the amount of ozone generated (Col. 9, lines 24, steel and aluminum are collected; Col. 5, lines 45-46, i.e. the type or kind of home electric appliances, the time of sale or date of consumption).

As for claims 9-10,

- said integrated environmental information forming means forms integrated environmental information with respect to each product by assigning one key information item to one product (Col. 6, lines 23-33, bar code);

- search means for searching the integrated environmental information (Col. 7, lines 41-48);

As for claims 11 and 13,

- display means for displaying a result of a search through the integrated environmental information searched by said search means (Fig. 6, element 70; Col. 7, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 12, **Embutsu** further discloses,

- An environmental information system comprising: an environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about products (Fig. 6, elements 37 or 39); user information storage means for storing user information (Col. 3, lines 10-14; Col. 6, lines 24-29); and search means for searching the environmental information on the basis of the user information (Col. 7, lines 41-48).

As for claim 14,

- the environmental information about the products includes environmental information about raw materials constituting each product (Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 20-23, i.e., the model f can be created from the knowledge of the component parts of each home electrical appliance and the materials of the parts).

Regarding claims 20 and 24, **Embutsu** discloses,

- A method and a computer readable medium for processing environmental information, comprising the steps of: storing user information (Col. 3, lines 10-14;

Col. 6, lines 24-29); searching environmental information about products according to the user information and on the basis of a data base in which the environmental information is stored (Col. 7, lines 41-48); and displaying a result of a search through the environmental information searched in said searching step (Fig. 6, element 70; Col. 7, lines 52-58).

2. Claims 17, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Suzuki et al. (US 6,633,795)**.

**Suzuki** discloses, regarding claims 17, 21 and 25, a method, computer readable medium and an environmental information system for forming environmental data about products, said system and method comprising:

- environmental data forming means for forming environmental data about each product from design data Col. 34, lines 53-55; Col. 35, lines 1-7; Col. 9, lines 58- Col. 10, line 4), ordering data based on the design data (Col. 13, lines 45-57), material data on the order-receiving side (Col. 14, lines 11-13; Fig. 14, elements 37, 62), hazardous chemical substance data originally input (Fig. 25, step 254), and user information (Col. 35, lines 57-67; Fig. 14).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Embutsu** as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of **Katayanagi et al. (US 6,321,983)**.

**Embutsu** discloses the limitations of claim 1 above but fails to disclose, regarding Claim 2, said integrated environmental information forming section re-forms the integrated environmental information when one of the raw materials constituting one of the products is changed or when the number of parts or raw materials constituting the product is changed. However, **Katayanagi** discloses a recycling system wherein if the design of a part is changed, the design change data contains the data the part design was changed (Col. 8, lines 8-10). **Katayanagi** further discloses that if a part is replaced with a different type of part, this fact is included in the repair/maintenance history, and the post-recovery disposal method is also rewritten to indicate a new post-recovery disposal method for the part (Col. 8, lines 28-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of **Embutsu** with the system of **Katayanagi** because it would provide with an improved recycling system wherein changes or modifications to parts of a product are maintained in a history database so that information background of an individual product can be known (**Katayanagi**, Col. 8, lines 28-32; Col. 14, lines 28-30).



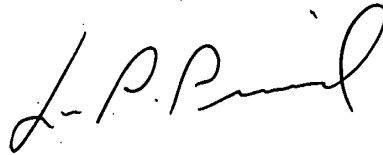
**Conclusion**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Zoila Cabrera, whose telephone number is (703) 306-4768. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by phone fail, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538. Additionally, the fax phones for Art Unit 2125 are (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.

Zoila Cabrera  
Patent Examiner  
5/14/04



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